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**U.S. CHARGES PAKISTANI MAN WITH
AGREEING TO HELP AL-QAEDA ASSOCIATE**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, PASQUALE D'AMURO, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, and RAYMOND W. KELLY, the New York City Police Commissioner, announced today that UZAIR PARACHA, a Pakistani national with permanent resident alien status in the United States, is charged with conspiring to provide material support and resources to Al-Qaeda.

PARACHA was charged in a criminal Complaint filed today in Manhattan federal court. He is accused of agreeing to help an Al-Qaeda associate obtain documents that would allow him to re-enter the United States and possibly grant him immigration status in the United States. In order to accomplish this, PARACHA also agreed to pose as the associate while in the United States.

According to the allegations in the Complaint, while in Pakistan earlier this year, PARACHA met with a man he believed to be an Al-Qaeda associate. Upon learning that PARACHA planned to

travel to the United States, the associate asked PARACHA to perform certain tasks to assist the associate in obtaining United States immigration documents.

Specifically, the Complaint alleges, the Al-Qaeda associate asked PARACHA to contact the then-Immigration and Naturalization Service (now the Bureau of Customs and Immigration Services) and pose as the associate, in an effort to facilitate the issuance of a travel document for which the associate had previously applied. If issued, the travel document would permit the associate to re-enter, and possibly remain, in the United States. However, the Al-Qaeda associate has remained overseas. The Al-Qaeda associate also asked PARACHA to deposit money into the associate's bank account, to use his credit cards, and to close his post office box in Maryland, all for the supposed purpose of making it appear that the associate was still in the United States. In fact, as PARACHA then knew, the associate was still in Pakistan, according to the Complaint.

As alleged in the Complaint, when the Al-Qaeda associate met with PARACHA, the associate emphasized that he did not want to learn any personal information about PARACHA, so that if the associate were ever arrested and questioned, he could not provide any information about PARACHA.

According to the Complaint, in February 2003, PARACHA came to the United States and began working out of an office in

Manhattan. During this period, the Al-Qaeda associate called PARACHA on two occasions to inquire into the status of PARACHA's efforts on his behalf. While in the United States, PARACHA placed telephone calls on behalf of the Al-Qaeda associate to the INS and to the bank where the associate maintained an account.

In March 2003, PARACHA was interviewed by members of the New York Joint Terrorism Task Force and, among other statements, advised the task force members that he was in possession of several items of identification belonging to the Al-Qaeda associate. According to the Complaint, a subsequent search of PARACHA's belongings revealed, among other items, a Maryland driver's license in the Al-Qaeda associate's name, a bank ATM/check card in that name, and a post office box key that was later determined to match the box that PARACHA stated had been rented by the Al-Qaeda associate.

Also found in the search of PARACHA's belongings was a handwritten document that included statements such as "My status: Asylee or refugee" and "The Document or Passport: Refugee Travel Document," as well as signatures in three different locations that appear to be in the name of the Al-Qaeda associate, it was charged in the Complaint. The Complaint also revealed that the document included several specific instructions or items of information, each preceded by a handwritten star, as if for emphasis, including "always call from pay phone," "put some money

in my account," "use it any gas station," and "good practice of my sign."

PARACHA, 23, will be presented in Manhattan federal court later today. If convicted on the pending charges, PARACHA faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison, and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the Joint Terrorism Task Force in conducting the investigation, and noted that the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorney KARL METZNER is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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